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IA 5 – Volcano/Volcanic Activity

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IA 5 Tasked Agencies	
Primary Agencies	Public Works
Supporting Agencies	Fire Department
	Police Department
	Emergency Management
	Administration

1   Description

The volcanic eruption of Mount St. Helens on May 18, 1980, as well as continuing volcanic and seismic activity, has made the threat of future volcanic eruptions in the Cascades a reality. With proper wind currents, a major eruption on either Mount St. Helens or Mount Hood could cause a sizable amount of ash to fall in our area. Also, volcanic eruptions are often accompanied by seismic activity (see IA 4 – Earthquake and Seismic Activity) and electrical storms. Responding to and recovering from such an incident would require a concerted effort on the part of the City and its emergency response agencies.

2   Response Planning

Planning and preparing for volcanic eruptions are primarily the responsibility of Public Works. Unless safety considerations warrant, all other City departments are responsible for maintaining their own operations and services during this type of incident.

An important component of activity following an eruption will be coordinating the communication flow with County Emergency Management, other affected jurisdictions, and the National Weather Service.

As demonstrated by the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens, ash can cause flooding, mud slides, equipment failure, respiratory health problems, as well as a huge ash removal project.

2.1   Electrical Storms

Electrical storms, an associated phenomenon of a volcanic plume, can cause fires as well as power outages. Depending on the time of year, the effect could be devastating. Either could require shelter and mass care to be provided to a portion of the City's population. See FA 2 for more information on Mass Care and Sheltering.

2.2   Earthquakes

Volcanic activity enhances the probability of an earthquake. If a volcanic eruption occurs, it would be prudent to monitor seismic activity and keep in mind the threat of earthquake when planning.

2.3　　Equipment Failure

Mechanized equipment could easily fail due to ash clogging air and fuel filters. Non-operative City vehicles and other equipment could greatly impair response capability. Also, roads could become impassable with ash and broken down private vehicles, further impairing response capability.

2.4　　Respiratory Health Problems

Ash particles in the air can aggravate existing respiratory problems and cause problems for others. The City will cooperate with public health officials to disseminate warning information to the public and implement appropriate precautions for City workers and assisting agencies and volunteers.

2.5　　Ash Removal

If ash build up is such that it impairs traffic flow, hinders response capability, endangers the environment, or damages the aesthetics of public property, the City will give consideration to a removal process. Collection points may need to be set up pending determination of a final disposal location.

3　　Communication

3.1　　Volcanic Eruption Information

The media, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio, Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS), the Yamhill Communications Agency (YCOM), and the Yamhill County Office of Emergency Management are all sources from which the City is likely to receive volcanic eruption information. Action requests of the City and its response agencies will also come from these sources, as will 911 dispatch.

3.2　　Public Information

Providing instructions to the public is the responsibility of the Public Information Officer (PIO). Such instructions may include guidelines for ash removal and disposal, the use of masks to protect the respiratory system, or how to keep vehicles running. Because of the widespread impact of a volcanic eruption, coordination with other jurisdictions within the affected area is imperative. Upon impact, contact will be established with the counties for that purpose. If conditions warrant, a Joint Information Center will be established. Alert and warning messages will be broadcast through the Emergency Alert System (EAS) with auxiliary information available through the City.

4　　Emergency Service Actions

All Incident Command System (ICS) support functions accrue to Public Works unless staffed by Incident Command. These support functions are in addition to the activities and responsibilities identified in the Basic Plan.

4.1   Public Works

4.1.1 Warning

___1. Increase warehouse stock of items likely to be in high demand.

___2. Evaluate fleet maintenance needs.

___3. Update resource lists.

___4. Establish an interagency coordination/communication plan.

___5. Assume Incident Command.

___6. Provide public information regarding appropriate preparedness activities.

4.1.2 Impact

___1. Assess damage to department resources and communication system.

___2. Assess the volcanic activity with respect to wind forecasts, expected ash volume, and damage to vehicles, the water supply, utility distribution systems, city facilities for HVAC systems and roadways. Keep the City Manager advised.

___3. Respond to and control the incident according to department SOPs.

___4. Assist the Police Department in traffic control as required.

___5. Coordinate inspections of pumps, valves, reservoirs, etc. as well as other utility system components as appropriate.

___6. Identify needs for alternative water supplies, if necessary.

4.1.3 Recovery

___1. Release excess personnel and equipment according to the demobilization plan.

___2. Assist in the compilation of damage assessment of City-owned equipment, utilities, roads, etc. to support requests for Federal disaster assistance.

___3. Assign personnel to monitor and direct the long-term recovery process.

4.2　　Fire Department

4.2.1　Warning

___1.　Increase warehouse inventories for items that are likely to be in high demand.

___2.　Establish interagency coordination/communication plan.

4.2.2　Impact

___1.　Establish communications with other City departments.

___2.　Assess damage to department resources.

___3.　Identify public health and safety issues with which the fire department can assist.

___4.　Keep up to date information on conditions. Utilize appropriate access routes as conditions change.

4.3　　Police Department

4.3.1　Impact

___1.　Assess damage to department resources.

___2.　Assess staffing needs. Consider activation of volunteer resources and mutual aid agreements.

___3.　Coordinate with the McMinnville Fire Department (MFD) and Public Works to clear and identify emergency access routes as quickly as possible.

___4.　Establish a traffic control plan.

___5.　Assist other responders as requested.

4.4　　Emergency Management

4.4.1　Warning

___1.　Participate in the regional coordination group to foster cooperation among affected jurisdictions.

4.4.2　Impact

___1.　Consider activation of the EOC.

___2.　Consider activation of volunteer organizations through the use of a volunteer coordinator.

___3. Establish and maintain reporting and coordination contact with cooperating jurisdictions and State and volunteer agencies until the Liaison function is filled.

___4. Assist Command and Command Staff, as requested.

___5. Establish communications with County Emergency Management Organizations.

___6. Brief the Command organization on current conditions, capabilities, and activities in McMinnville and affected areas, including the need for a declaration of emergency.

4.4.3 Recovery

___1. Assist in assessment of damages.

___2. Provide coordination point for disaster recovery activities and agencies.

___3. Facilitate post-incident analysis.

___4. Revise and update the Emergency Operations Plan as incident analysis indicates.

4.5   Administration

4.5.1 Impact

___1. Consider activation of the EOC.

___2. City Manager - Consider assuming overall incident command.

___3. City Manager - Consider the need for an Emergency Declaration and begin process, if necessary. See FA 4 – Recovery Strategy and the Basic Plan.

4.5.2 Recovery

___1. Oversee preparation of requests for Disaster Declaration and begin assistance, if necessary.

4.6   Incident Command

4.6.1 Impact

___1. Provide overall incident strategy and management.

___2. Establish a Unified Command structure with other affected jurisdictions, as appropriate.

___3. Provide liaison with cooperating or assisting agencies, jurisdictions, and volunteers not part of the Unified Command structure.

___4. Establish and maintain contact with the media, provide public and protective action information, and provide alert and warning as appropriate.

___5. Monitor the overall safety of incident operations.

___6. Establish Incident Command structure as appropriate to effectively manage the incident.

___7. Consider the need for a written Incident Action Plan (IAP).

___8. Ensure that the PIO function is staffed and operational.

5 Appendices

■ None at this time.